

Message Text

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TAGS: UNDP
SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION--BUDGET AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE--ITEM 17(L) ON SECTORAL SUPPORT

REF: GENEVA 8930

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE COMPLETED ITS WORK ON 29 JUNE
(A) BY REACHING A SATISFACTORY SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT ON
THE FINAL ITEM WHICH HAD REQUIRED SOME DETAILED NEGOTIA-
TIONS DURING THE SESSION (ITEM 17(L)) AND (B) BY APPROV-
ING ITS FULL DRAFT REPORT TO THE PLENARY, WHICH IS
SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE IT ON 30 JUNE. END
SUMMARY.

2. ITEM 17(L), SECTORAL SUPPORT, CONCERNS PRINCIPALLY
THE ASSIGNING OF SENIOR AGENCY REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL
ADVISERS TO PROVIDE FIELD EXPERTISE AT THE SECTORAL LEVEL.
TO DATE, THE COUNCIL HAD AUTHORIZED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO
FINANCE UP TO 36 UNIDO SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
FIELD ADVISORS (SIDFAS) AS WELL AS A DECLINING NUMBER
OF FAO SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS (SAAS) (22 IN 1978
AND 12 IN 1979, AS FAO ITSELF INCREASINGLY IS ASSUMING
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FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE SAAS, WHO ARE
ALSO "FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES"). THE UNDP SECRETARIAT,
IN DP/323, REPORTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO A UNIDO PROPOSAL
TO INCREASE TO 40 THE NUMBER OF SIDFAS, FIVE OTHER UN
AGENCIES (INCLUDING IMCO, PER REF) WERE SEEKING UNDP
FINANCING FOR SECTORAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL
AND INTERREGIONAL ADVISERS AND SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS

WHOM THEY WOULD PROVIDE IN 1979 AT A COST TO UNDP OF ABOUT \$1.8 MILLION. BECAUSE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL STILL IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHAT UNDP'S LONG-TERM POLICY AND COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD BE TOWARD SECTORAL SUPPORT, THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FOR THE COMMITTEE WAS TO DECIDE ON HOW UNDP SHOULD HANDLE THE AGENCY REQUESTS FOR 1979 PENDING COUNCIL DECISIONS ON THE LONGER-TERM APPROACH.

3. THE ISSUE TURNED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ASSESSED BUDGETS AS WELL AS EXTRA-BUDGETARY SOURCES OF THE CONCERNED AGENCIES SHOULD PROVIDE FINANCING FOR SECTORAL SUPPORT. THE STRONGEST EXPONENTS OF AGENCY RATHER THAN UNDP FINANCING OF SECTORAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WERE THE SCANDANAVIANS, LED BY SWEDEN, AND THE OPPOSING GROUP, WHICH FAVORED A DOMINANT UNDP FINANCIAL ROLE, INCLUDED MANY OF THE WEST EUROPEANS (PARTICULARLY FRG, UK AND FRANCE), THE US AND THE SOVIETS. MAINLY BECAUSE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE FAVORED A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION, COUPLED WITH THE STRONG SCANDINAVIAN (NON-SWEDISH) INTEREST IN UNDP FINANCING OF SECTORAL SUPPORT FOR THE SMALLER UN AGENCIES, THE SWEDISH-LED GROUP EVENTUALLY BENT, OPENING UP A COMPROMISE WHICH, IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDING ALREADY APPROVED FOR UNIDO (36 SIDFAS) AND FAO (12 SAAS) IN UNDP'S 1979 ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT BUDGET, PROVIDES FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR SECTORAL

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SUPPORT OF UP TO \$1.4 MILLION, TO BE USED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AT HIS DISCRETION (A) TO MEET THE OUTSTANDING REQUESTS OF THE FIVE ADDITIONAL AGENCIES AND (B) TO COMMIT UP TO \$60,000 OF THAT AMOUNT TO MEET THE MORE RECENT REQUESTS FROM TWO OTHER UN AGENCIES (WMO AND ILO). THE UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR STATED THAT THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION WAS ADEQUATE TO MEET ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE OVER THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE IS NEEDED, IF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IS TO AVOID INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT DEBATE OVER UNDP VERSUS AGENCY ROLES IN SECTORAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND FINANCING.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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